

CHARTING A NEW COURSE

(Mr. WITTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, the great patriots living in the original 13 colonies in the early years of this Nation relied on hard work, enduring spirit, and innovative thinking to create America.

We are in the final weeks of the 111th Congress, and during this session, much of the legislation passed challenged the fundamental characteristics of what makes our Nation great: self-reliance, responsibility, taking risks, and making tough decisions.

Instead, we have seen more mandates, burdensome regulations, and overbearing debt and deficits—hardly what those founding patriots intended.

After a few months back in America's First District, the message from Virginians is simple: Stop the spending. Keep freedom intact.

Congress has two choices: Continue on the same path or chart a new, responsible path.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has the responsibility to work together to chart a new course and allow this Nation to prosper for years to come.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

(Mr. WALZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, the same challenges that faced this Nation on November 1 still faced us when we woke up on November 3. We still have too many Americans without jobs, and we still have work to do to grow our economy and put our country back on a path of prosperity.

We need initiatives that make America more competitive. We need to tap into the can-do spirit that made this country so great. Folks in my district in southern Minnesota know that a new clean energy economy means jobs and securities right here at home.

I hope my friends across the aisle now understand that Americans expect them to actually do something. They expect them to grow our economy, create jobs here at home and not ship them overseas, and hold Wall Street accountable.

Catchy campaign slogans might be great to win elections, but they won't fix a single problem. They won't create more jobs. They won't put America back to work. Now the hard work really begins, and we must be up to the task.

Winston Churchill once said: Democracy is the worst form of government, except for every other one that has been tried.

Democracy is hard work. It needs to start right here, and we need to put America back on a path to prosperity.

COACH CHARLENE MORETT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to give credit to a coach who has just reached the milestone of a 400th career win.

It was almost 2 months ago when the Penn State field hockey team shut out Temple University 4-0. They were coached by Charlene Morett, the longest tenured coach in the Big Ten and the seventh-longest tenured coach at a single school in Division I field hockey. She is in her 24th season as head coach of the Penn State field hockey program. This makes her only the fourth Division I field hockey coach in NCAA history to hit the 400-victory plateau.

In 2008, Morett led her team to the Big Ten regular season title and was named Big Ten Coach of the Year for the fourth time. Five of her players have been named Big Ten Athlete of the Year.

Morett is a graduate of Penn State and an outstanding field hockey player in her own right. She is a two-time Olympian, winning a bronze medal in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games, and she was also an All-American lacrosse player.

I congratulate Morett and her team for their accomplishments.

ALLOW BUSH TAX CUTS TO EXPIRE

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a minute to put the Republican Party's current platform into some historical perspective.

It was 30 years ago that Ronald Reagan was elected on the same platform that the government really can't be the solution to any of our problems, that it is the problem. He also suggested that any President who submitted a budget that was not balanced should be impeached. Well, for 8 years he never submitted a balanced budget and tripled our deficit.

George H. W. Bush tried to correct the situation so the Gingrich Republicans contributed to his defeat.

Bill Clinton came in, balanced the budget, allowed tax rates to go up to the level they are set to return to finally in January, saw 23 million new jobs created, while he invested in our fiscal and human infrastructure. He had three successive budget surpluses and left with a \$5.6 trillion projected surplus.

George Bush comes in running against the government, enacts two deep tax cuts, starts two wars, puts in a \$900 billion Medicare part D prescription drug program, and leaves us with the worst fiscal crisis that this country has faced since the Great Depression.

So there is the historical perspective. The fact is those two tax cuts never should have been enacted in 2001 and 2003. They should be allowed to expire, and we ought to reinvest in the human and the fiscal infrastructure of this country if we want to create more and better jobs in this country.

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NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH AND NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, every year an average of 115,000 American children live in foster care just waiting to be adopted. So, today, I am pleased to honor November as National Adoption Month and November 20th as National Adoption Day.

In particular, I would like to recognize Voices for Adoption for its efforts to support adoption. Since 1996, this organization has not only helped recruit adoptive families, but also supported programs that assist families who have already adopted.

For example, Voices for Adoption sponsors a program called Adoptive Family Portrait Project. Through this project, Members of Congress celebrate a family from their district that exemplifies the values of adoption.

This year, I am pleased to recognize the Campbell family from Waldwick, New Jersey. Shea and George have welcomed over 121 children into their home over the last 30 years. In addition, they have adopted several children. Shea also works for Children's Aid and Family Services as a specialist in helping special needs children who have been exposed to drugs. In the past, she has served on the Child Placement Review Board.

The Campbells remain in contact with many of the children who have come into their home as foster children. They also mentor new foster parents and advise those who are considering becoming foster parents for the first time.

During this month, I am proud to highlight the numerous ways the Campbells have contributed to promoting adoption in northern New Jersey. Adoption changes far more than one life; it changes a community.

ACHIEVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Our country is one of opportunity, where everyone can follow their dreams, but we need to ensure that America's young people get the training they need to succeed. But we have fallen behind.

Today, only 15 percent of American students learn a second language, and it hinders us in today's global economy. That is why I have introduced the